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RUEKJCS/DIA WASHDC PRIORITY
INFO RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 412
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E.O. 12065: GS 2/16/85 (GLASSMAN JON D.) OR-P
TAGS: MILI, CU, UR
SUBJECT: (C) MIG23'S IN CUBA

1. C- ENTIRE TEXT.

2. CUBAN REVOLUTIONARY ARMED FORCES OFFICIAL MAGAZINE VERDE OLIVO (NUMBER 7/79), RECEIVED FEBRUARY 15, CARRIES SEVEN PAGE ARTICLE ENTITLED "THESE ARE THE MIG-23'S". ARTICLE CONTAINS NUMEROUS PHOTOS, OF VARYING QUALITY, OF INTAKE RAMPS AND UNDERSIDE OF MIG-23F GROUND ATTACK AIRCRAFT NUMBER 716-- INCLUDING CLEAR SHOTS OF BOM RACKS. WE PRESUME PURPOSE OF ARTICLE IS TO DEMONSTRATE THAT CUBAN GROUND ATTACK VERSIONS ARE MIG-23F, AND NOT MIG-23D (MIG 27).

3. ARTICLE CONCERNS PLAYA GIRON GUARDS AIR GRIGADE, WHICH, JUDGING FROM COLLATERAL DETAILS CONTAINED IN ARTICLE, IS LOCATED AT SAN ANTONIO DE LOS BANDOS AIR BASE. ONE PHOT IN ARTICLE SHOWS LINE-UP OF NINE MIG-23'S OF WHICH AT LEAST THREE AND POSSIBLY AS MANY AS EIGHT MAY BE GROUND ATTACK VERSIONS. (QUALITY OF PHOTO DETERIORATES IN BACKGROUND. FYI ARTICLE STATES THAT NINE MIG-23'S OF UNSPECIFIED TYPES -- THREE "TROIKAS" -- TOOK PART IN OVERFLIGHT OF HANAURY 2 MILITARY PARADE. END FYI.) INTERESTING DETAIL IS THAT ONLY INTERCEPTOR MODEL SHOWN (IN

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BE Doney
John Saunders
What's the status of the MIG-23 paper?

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FOREGROUND OF PHOTO) CARRIES NUMBER 701. REMAINING GROUND
ATTACK VERSIONS THAT CAN BE DISTINGUISHED IN ARTICLE CARRY
NUMBERS 712, 716, AND 719. (COMMENT: IF WE PRESUME NUMBERS ARE
SEQUENTIAL AND FIRST NUMBER IS 701, THERE MAY BE AS MANY AS
TWENTY-ONE MIG-23'S AT SAN ANTONIO DE LOS BANOS SINCE CUBAN
ICAIC NEWSREEL --HAVANA 284 -- SHOWED TWO MIG-23 GROUND ATTACK
VERSIONS, PROBABLY AT SAN ANTONIO, NUMBERED 720 AND 721.
ALSO, IF IDENTIFIED GROUND ATTACK VERSIONS CARRY NUMBERS RUNNING AT
LEAST FROM 712 TO 721, AND NUMBERING IS SEQUENTIAL, THERE MAY
BE AS MANY AS TEN GROUND ATTACK VERSIONS AT SAN ANTONIO.
BY SAME TOKEN, THERE MAY BE AS MANY AS ELEVEN INTERCEPTOR
VERSIONS-- RUNNING FROM 701 TO 711.)

4. ARTICLE REFERS TO MIG-23'S AS "VARIABLE-GEOMETRY TACTICAL
FIGHTER-BOMERS" AND MENTIONS TRAINING FOR INTERCEPTION, "PHOTO-
STRAFING), AND "PHOTO-BOMBING". (COMMENT: WE PRESUME THAT "PHOTO-
STRAFING" AND PHOTO-BOMBING" REFERS TO USE OF ELECTRONIC/RADAR
INSTRUMENTS IN EXECUTING GROUND ATTACK MISSIONS, RATHER THAN
TO TAKING OF PHOTOGRAPHS.)

5. PILOTS MENTIONED IN ARTICLE ARE ALL CUBANS INCLUDING SQUADRON
COMMANDER COLONEL RAFAEL DEL PINO, GUARDS CAPTAIN MARIO SIERRA
GARCIA, GUARDS CAPTAIN MANUEL DE LOS SANTOS SOTOLONGO,
GUARDS LIEUTENANT FERNANDO GARCIA ROJAS, GUARDS FIRST LIEU-
TENEANT PEDRO LUIS COLMENERO LAUPEDO, PLUS TECHNICIAN LIEUTE-
NANT JUAN MANUEL CAMPANI. NO SOVIETS ARE MENTIONED.

6. COPY OF VERDE OLIVO WILL BE SENT IN NEXT AVAILABLE HADUCH
(WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21) TO DIA (ATTENTION DN-2D).
LANE

END OF MESSAGE

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